

urban and suburban counterparts. Worse yet, rural school teachers are less likely to have the high quality professional development opportunities that current research strongly suggests all teachers desperately need.

Limited resources also mean fewer course offerings for students in rural and small schools. Consequently, courses are designed for the kids in the middle. So, students at either end of the academic spectrum miss out. Additionally, fewer rural students who dropout ever return to complete high school, and fewer rural high school graduates go on to college.

On another note, recent research on brain development clearly shows the critical nature of early childhood education, yet rural schools are less likely to offer even kindergarten classes, let alone earlier educational opportunities. Limited resources also mean less support for teacher training, technical assistance, educational technologies, and school libraries.

To make matters worse, many of our rural areas are also plagued by persistent poverty, and, as we know, high-poverty schools have a much tougher time preparing their students to reach high standards of performance on state and national assessments. Data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress consistently show large gaps between the achievement of students in high-poverty schools and students in low-poverty schools.

Our bill would provide funding to approximately 3,400 rural and small school districts that serve 4.6 million students—a short-term infusion of funds that will allow these schools and their students to take substantial strides forward.

Local education agencies would be eligible for REDI funding if they are either “rural” (serve a non-metropolitan area) and have a school-age population (ages 5–17) with 20 percent or more of whom are from families with incomes below the poverty line; or “small” (student population of 800 or less) and a student population (ages 5–17) with 20 percent or more of whom are from families with incomes below the poverty line.

Like the Education Flexibility Act of 1999 (Ed-flex) I authored with Senator BILL FRIST earlier this Congress, REDI is voluntary—states and school districts could choose to participate in the program. Both Ed-flex and REDI are designed to provide states and districts with the flexibility they need in order to use funding to deal with their local priorities.

I’ve heard it said that this would be the Education Congress, but we have much to do before we earn that title. Ed-flex was a good start, but it was a start, not a finish. It’s time to show that we when it comes to education, we won’t leave anyone behind, and REDI will give poor, rural children a real chance. We can’t afford to stop now.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS ON JANUARY 25, 2000

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to prohibit the importation of products made with dog or cat fur, to prohibit the sale, manufacture, offer for sale, transportation, and distribution of products made with dog or cat fur in the United States, and for other purposes.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS ON JANUARY 26, 2000

S. 456

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for information technology training expenses paid or incurred by the employer, and for other purposes.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to preserve the authority of States over water within their boundaries, to delegate to States the authority of Congress to regulate water, and for other purposes.

S. 1017

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH OF NEW HAMPSHIRE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1017, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on the low-income housing credit.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers, to provide for a carryover basis at death, and to establish a partial capital gains exclusion for inherited assets.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act to cover birds of the order *Ratitae* that are raised for use as human food.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1196, a bill to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1384, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1421, a bill to impose restrictions on the sale of cigars.

S. 1729

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1729, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails, and for other purposes.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1909, a bill to provide for the preparation of a Governmental report detailing injustices suffered by Italian Americans during World War II, and a formal acknowledgement of such injustices by the President.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to enhance the services provided by the Environmental Protection Agency to small communities that are attempting to comply with national, State, and local environmental regulations.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill for the relief of Elian Gonzalez-Brotons.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, A resolution commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the International Visitors Program

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 212, a resolution to designate August 1, 2000, as “National Relatives as Parents Day.”